

2013 City of Austin Google Fiber Community Connections Program Application and Instructions

Google has announced plans to bring Google Fiber to Austin residents. The plan calls for building an ultra, high speed broadband network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, up to 100 times faster than normal to Austin's homes.

Google has agreed to provide up to 100 sites with broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until April 8, 2023 in addition to City Hall and the new Central Library. These Community Connections will be to public or non-profit sites in the City of Austin that provide access and services directly to Austinites through what is being called the Community Connections program. Under the agreement with Google Fiber, the City of Austin will create the proposed list of sites for the program.

It is the City Council's goal to ensure an application and selection process that is transparent, available to all, and utilizes a clear set of [selection criteria](#) adopted by the City Council. Community Connections aims to provide fiber speed internet access directly to the public and will serve for innovation and digital inclusion, resulting in advancements unique to Austin's spirit.

Attached is the Community Connections Site Application, which is due by September 30, 2013.

Please direct questions to the City's Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office at digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2999.

For more information and application: austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion

Thank you for your consideration.



Community Connections Site Selection Application Form

The City of Austin will propose **100** public or non-profit organizations to receive Google Fiber connections at their locations.

Application Packet

In order to be considered for selection, please submit the following items:

- **General Application Form.** Complete this form (ensuring that it is signed and dated).
- **Criteria Form. Complete this form as fully as possible.** If the organization offers services at more than one location, the applicant should complete the Criteria Form for each location and prioritize the single location that will benefit the most from having a gigabit of service.

Application Submission

All applications are due in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) before **4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013**. Late applications will not be considered.

Submissions may be submitted by email or snail mail to:

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov

Address: City of Austin - Municipal Building -124 W. 8th Street, Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512.974.2999

Application Review Process

Community Applications

- August 26, 2013 - Community Site Applications Available
- September 30, 2013 - Deadline for Site Applications for Community Connections
- October 1-31, 2013 - Staff Review & Assessment

Site List Adoption

- November 6, 2013 – Community Tech & Telecommunications Commission - Discussion & Input
- November 13, 2013 – Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee - Discussion & Recommendation to Council
- November 21, 2013 - Council Discussion & Adoption of Community Connection Site List
- End of 2013 - Google Fiber requested deadline for Community Connection Site List from City

Privacy Statement

This information is being collected and will be used to assist in determining your organization's eligibility and qualification for receiving a community connection on the City's proposed site list. This information provided may be published by the City. Any information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is subject to the Public Information Act.

Community Connections General Application Form

(Please complete this portion of application only once per organization if submitting for multiple sites)

General Application Form

Applicant Organization Name: River City Youth Foundation

Alias/DBA:

Program Name for Google Fiber Connection:

River City Youth Foundation's Dove Springs WIN (Wired & Inspired Neighborhood)

Organization Mission and Purpose:

We're on a mission for good. We share your conviction that no household in America should be denied access to the Internet. The needs of the poor in the Dove Springs community drive our shared sense of urgency to work collaboratively to ensure that each child and family have the access they need, the success they deserve.

Organization Website: www.rivercityyouth.org

Contact Name: Mona Gonzalez

City: Austin

State: Texas

Zip: 78744

Phone: 512-440-1111

Email: mona@rivercityyouth.org

Location(s) applying for site selection (including physical address of location) and how long your organization plans on being at each location:

River City Youth Foundation, 5209 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Austin, Texas 78744

Described as a "Cornerstone of Connectivity in Dove Springs," RCYF plans to remain at this location for at least the next two decades. We are a National First Place Keep America Beautiful Award recipient recognized for the community reclamation of a once-drug infested parkland in Dove Springs that has been transformed into a safe and thriving full service community center and technology hub - the RCYF Success Center.

Type of Organization:

☒ Non-Profit

☐ Public Entity

Number of years in operation: 30	Number of employees at location: 14
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Community Connections Criteria Form

(Please complete this portion of application once for organization in an electronic document and please explain each response, 1000 words maximum per response, please)

Criteria Form

Organization

1. What is your agency's vision? *(response required for all agencies)*

In today's global economy our vision is to make Dove Springs a 21st Century hub for workforce talent and education opportunities – Wired & Inspired with: 1) safe learning environments, 2) constructive educational and therapeutic activities, 3) personal growth and self-improvement opportunities, 4) successful coordination of social services, 5) mobilization of community resources and active community involvement, 6) improvement of neighborhoods and the well-being of residents, 7) the capabilities of a community that is college and career ready.

2. What is your agency's mission and purpose? *(response required for all agencies)*

For nearly 30 years, RCYF has focused all of our resources on helping low income children and families with best practices neighborhood-based after school youth development activities that help transform lives as well as community.

Our Mission: To help youth and families in Dove Springs live safe, healthy, and prosperous lives.
Our Vision: To be an exemplary model of comprehensive neighborhood-based youth and family services that maximizes every child's potential and improves communities.

Our Goal

*To provide a safe, engaging, and connected learning environment for youth, families, and volunteers at our beautiful two acre parkland youth facility. Thanks to hundreds of corporate and neighborhood volunteers a once drug-infested site is now a safe place for kids.

Our Objectives:

Provide year-round after school homework help services providing:

Mentors for over 100 youth

Technology training for over 600 youth and 200 parents

Counseling and case management services

Community events that reach over 5000 youth and families to promote family strengthening, neighborhood safety, and global learning.

d) Year-round program/services currently provided:

Counseling, mentoring, technology and multimedia training, STEM education, drug prevention, tutoring, nutritious meals, and annual community events that promote safety, education, family learning and bonding (e.g. Fathers Parade to promote the positive academic and social impact of a father or father figure).

3. Please list your organization's affiliations, community partnerships, certifications, and/or accreditations.
(response required for all agencies)

With a 30 year history of best practices with counseling, mentoring, technology service, and a city certified kitchen that supplies nutritious meals to disadvantaged youth and families, River City Youth Foundation has amassed an impressive list of community affiliations and partnerships extending across the globe with organizations that visit RCYF to get inspired and learn best practices. Just last week educators from Slovenia made RCYF one of their national stops. Additionally, many collaborations in our own backyard recognize the value of collaboration such as the recently formed Dove Springs Neighborhood Association which is training resident leaders to be proud of the neighborhood they are resolved to transform.

A good example of what happens as a result of the breadth and impact of RCYF's collaborations is TechComunidad. In 2012, RCYF introduced TechComunidad to the Dove Springs southeast Austin community as part of a strategic plan to "wire" Dove Springs and to impact the hardest-to-reach demographic of parents in southeast Austin who are not equipped to guide their children's academic success. At the end of the program, families graduate and are rewarded with a WIFI tablet.

TechComunidad has established extensive project support and participation from the Dove Springs community as well as the greater Austin area.

Prior to the launch of TechComunidad in Dove Springs, RCYF held numerous information sessions and community meetings about TechComunidad with community leaders, school campus representatives, church leaders, volunteer groups, and professional associations prior to the launch of TechComunidad in Dove Springs.

Business leaders, Dove Springs principals, teachers, parent support specialists, and counselors have also helped with parent outreach and the application process for TechComunidad I and II

which took place in 2012.

Several principals also helped provide technology and equipment for the kickoff mobilization events.

The following sampling of groups have participated and/or partnered to produce TechComunidad:

- * 5 Dove Springs churches
- *3 Austin area churches
- * Dell Volunteer Groups including Adelante Dell Hispanic Association
- * All Dove Springs school campuses (8 elementary, one middle school)
- *30+ college and university groups
- *UT Austin
- Texas Computer Education Association
- *Women in Technology
- *Cops for Charities
- *NSHMBA (National Society of Hispanic MBAs)
- *City of Austin
- *Austin Police Department
- *Austin Fire Firefighters
- *Texas Health Institute / Texas Benefit Bank
- * Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- *Las Comadres Para Las Americas
- * KIPP
- * Council Member Laura Morrison, Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Committee
- * City's GTOPS

Examples of long-standing community partnerships include:

- Capital Area Food Bank that provides over 12K pounds of food supplies year-round for our feeding program that serves over 30,000 meals & snacks annually. In its 30th year of partnership with RCYF, the Food Bank is an excellent advocate for reducing hunger in our high-risk neighborhood especially with a free summer lunch program. Our focus in 2013/14 is healthy living in an effort to reduce the growing rate of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and other diseases that impact our students and families.
- Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is the only municipal library in Dove Springs, a neighborhood of over 50K residents. Staff has shared a concern about pre-teens being left alone at the library to take care of their baby siblings while parents work.
- UT Austin's vast list of educational resources is helping us to educate and inspire our low

income youth towards careers in STEM. Our youth have participated in the institution's annual Explore UT event, completed field trips to UT's "Super Computer" facility and VisLab at the Texas Advanced Computing Center, and many other UT locations of higher education.

Some examples of new partnerships include:

- Austin/Travis County Integral Care with which RCYF has worked to support the opening this fall of the first Dove Springs Integrated Care facility that will provide primary care and wellness support to children and families in Dove Springs.
 - Latino Health Forum with which RCYF has collaborated to train Spanish speaking "promotoras," community health promoters in Dove Springs.
4. What is the total number of unduplicated clients served by your organization at this location last fiscal year? *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

More than 3000 children and families have been served at River City Youth Foundation in the last fiscal year.

5. Briefly provide an overview of your organization and the services it offers. *(response required for all agencies)*

River City Youth Foundation is Austin's longest running native based youth organization celebrating 30 years. The organization serves the fast-growing youth population of southeast Austin's Dove Springs. RCYF provides youth and their parents with technology skills development, multimedia, mentoring, college and career readiness, health/wellness programs and services, and four major annual community events that promote education, strong families, and neighborhood safety and prosperity in Dove Springs.

For nearly 30 years RCYF has focused all of our resources on helping low income children and families with best practices neighborhood-based after school youth development activities that help transform lives as well as community.

The Wired & Inspired Neighborhood (WIN) Program at River City Youth Foundation (RCYF) creates a **bridge from poverty to prosperity** for thousands of families living in the most underserved area of Austin – Dove Springs.

Headed into its third year, the WIN program has grown every year to serve more low-income kids and to build an emerging tech culture in the most challenging and unlikely of areas. Through a strategic mix of programming, RCYF provides competitive and culturally relevant learning and engagement opportunities for youth and their families to learn these essential Information & Communication Technology (ICT) skills that help them achieve a better life: Tech Literacy, Collaboration, Communications, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving.

WIN is guided by three core pillars for student success:

Pillar I: Tech Literacy: We give Dove Springs youth never ending opportunities to learn new technologies and the skills to apply them. Program service examples include:

- TechComunidad™ – Launched in year 1 of WIN, TechComunidad continues to be a vital strategy for driving student success through family empowerment. With Dell's and now GTOP support, this program component has impacted hundreds of youth and their families. In year 3 of WIN, TechComunidad is poised to grow with increased outreach to identify the youth that have no technology access and minimal parent support in the home. TechComunidad in 2013-2014 is introducing new youth classes and weekly parent training.
- Tech Camps: (Summer & Seasonal): RCYF's WIN Tech Camps continue to be a safe and fun learning environment when kids are out of school. In year 2 of WIN, RCYF's students did everything from video game making and digital art to music and video production. Over Spring Break, one female middle school student, Selene, told her Tech Camp instructor, "I really love video editing. I'm going to switch my elective to take a video class at school."

Pillar II: Social Impact: We teach youth how to lead initiatives to power the possible by building a unified, take-action community. Program service examples include:

- College Awareness Campaign: In year 3 of WIN, RCYF students and their families will host a community summit on higher education in Dove Springs. They plan to host the area's education officials and community leaders to discuss real-world solutions and timelines for taking the steps to provide more affordable options in Dove Springs.
- RCYF Community Events: WIN continues to have a major presence at RCYF's annual and seasonal community events, which include an annual Father's Parade & Fiesta, the Merry Memories Toy Giveaway and Holiday Festival, and the back-to-school Start the Peace Concert. At these events, students participate in community development projects and engage in STEM related learning opportunities, such as with Lego displays and Math trivia contests.

Pillar III: College & Career Readiness: We place youth on a clear pathway to complete a higher education and find rewarding jobs. Program service examples include:

- IdeaMakers in Dove springs: This new entrepreneur workshop series engages WIN youth in Dove Springs who aspire to be social entrepreneurs or business creators. Students are paired with mentors and local entrepreneurs in a workshop series where they learn, dream big, develop solutions, and create a tangible plan for taking idea making steps.
- Generation Texas Partnership: RCYF's WIN program has partnered with the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board to promote a college and career readiness culture in Dove Springs. WIN students are learning about the college and career readiness standards and the steps to prepare for post-secondary education. In this program component, students also have an opportunity to present their work at RCYF in front of educator audiences and officials.

- College Tours: In 2013-2014, RCYF WIN students are taking numerous tours to colleges locally and around Texas. Many RCYF students have never set foot on a college campus. These experiences are designed to make college an easy step to visualize for both student and parent.
6. Describe the community issues your organization is attempting to address. Include a description of the population most at risk of experiencing the issues described. *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

River City Youth Foundation's mission is focused on serving southeast Austin's Dove Springs, the largest populated community in greater Austin that according to the city demographer has one of the greatest challenges facing it for two main reasons: 1) a very fast-growing population of children, many of whom have extremely low-income, limited English parents that don't have the skills to guide them through the U.S. education system; and 2) a huge multi-generational cycle of poverty that has bred seismic educational gaps.

Here's what RCYF encounters every day in Dove Springs:

- An area where 1 out of every 4 people you see walking the streets has not finished 9th grade
- Austin ISD's greatest volume of kids
- The largest pool of parents who don't know how to guide their children through the U.S. education system from pre-K to college and career
- One of the largest populated zip codes in Austin
- A community with the leading rate of teen pregnancy IN THE COUNTRY!
- One of Central Texas' fastest-growing youth communities
- The least connected area in Austin with one out of every two households lacking connectivity or a computer.

Here's the GREAT NEWS:

Because of the RCYF WIN program supported by Dell, GTOPS and others, thousands of young people and parents in Dove Springs are using technology and new skills to eliminate the educational plague in the community.

We believe the future is brimming with possibility. Dove Springs represents a vitally huge potential bilingual workforce for the future of Austin and the U.S.

7. Describe the demographics (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, and income levels) and geographic characteristics of the community members your organization serves. *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

The youth and families we serve live in Dove Springs, a rapidly growing community of over 48,000 youth and families, mostly Latino and many newly arrived immigrants. With recent recessionary impacts, a greater number of near homeless families are sharing living spaces with two or three other families to survive. Over 90% of children in area schools are on federally subsidized lunch. Four census tracts in Dove Springs are called “food deserts” by the US Department of Agriculture due to the lack of grocery stores. Recent studies by the Children’s Optimal Health Council show that youth at Mendez Middle School have the highest obesity rates in our community. Over 88% of youth in our local juvenile system are from Dove Springs.

City demographer Ryan Robinson calls Dove Springs Austin’s “truest barrio” and in his review of the 2010 Census cites that it is in fact the fastest growing area of Austin with the fastest growing population of Latinos. With exceptionally high rates of chronic disease, street crime, domestic crime, and school dropouts our youth are at severe risk for failing in this global society. With recent school budget cuts that have resulted in reduced IT infrastructure in our area schools, there will be even less technology.

They comprise the fastest growing youth population in Austin, our Dove Springs “youth of promise”. Our students are male and female; 95% minority (80% Latino, 20% African American); many are English-limited; the vast majority are on government subsidized free lunch programs in nearby schools including Rodriguez, Houston, Widen, and Perez Elementary Schools; Middle school students attend Mendez and Paredes and since there is no high school in Dove Springs, the majority of high school students are bused to either Akins or Travis High School.

Programs with short term funding have come and gone over the years in Dove Springs; RCYF remains the only free wired 24x7 technology hub in this growing neighborhood of bright children from loving but low income families that typically work from sunup to sundown. They face high levels of food insecurity, language barriers, neighborhood bullying and other forms of street crime, and they lack accessible technology at home and in their community. As the only youth organization headquartered in Dove Springs, RCYF devotes **ALL** of its resources to helping Dove Springs families with wrap around counseling, case management, mentoring, and meals services as well as technology training.

8. Describe your organization’s accessibility (e.g. accessible main entrance, within blocks of a public bus stop, etc.). *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

Scalability and accessibility are the two major strengths of RCYF’s application to become a Google Fiber Community Connection to the city’s fastest growing population of low income families with children. RCYF’s Wired & Inspired Neighborhood (WIN) is located in the hub of Dove Springs, within walking distance of hundreds of low income households with no transportation and whose children attend six neighborhood public schools and several charter schools. For those who use public transportation, the Capital Metro bus stops a block from the

main entrance of RCYF near our 2 acre youth and family parkland facility.

9. If selected, how will your organization incorporate Google Fiber into the services it offers? *(response required for all agencies)*

With Google Fiber, RCYF will be able to continue our goals of empowering the community through education and further encouraging our community to be digitally involved. The additional speed and bandwidth will allow RCYF to not only facilitate our current programs more effectively, but it makes these programs more scalable as we continue to add families to these programs.

Our current broadband connection is not excessively fast (6MB down – upgraded to 12MB for special events) and it takes a significant bandwidth hit when we have a large event like TechComunidad, a technology empowerment and access program that trains 200+ low-literate parents and 400 children annually. The latency we experience when we do our flagship programs tends to cause delays and distractions that would be avoided with a faster, dedicated fiber connection. An on- site fiber connection will permanently relieve these performance hits and allow us to focus these events on education and empowerment instead of waiting for network connection issues to subside.

As the first free 24x7 public community based WIFI hot-spot in Dove Springs, many families have come to depend on RCYF as their hub to the information superhighway - the Internet. A Google Fiber connection will exponentially enhance this experience for our community and will allow RCYF to continue its goal of creating a culture of education, empowerment, and digital involvement.

10. The City of Austin requires an annual report explaining how selected organizations and the community they serve benefit from Google Fiber. If selected, how will your organization measure the impact Google Fiber has on those served by your organization? Describe evaluation methods, goals, and objectives. *(response required for all agencies)*

OUTPUTS

- Provide 30,400 hours of bilingual technology training to youth and families in Dove Springs including half of this volume through Internet based or virtual training modules
- Provide 450 volunteer hours to support digital literacy and tech support
- Launch a Dove Springs Technology Summit in 2015

OUTCOMES:

- Number of tech lab users increasing basic digital skills; of these 80% will show an increase.

- Number of tech lab users increasing social media skills; of these 80% will show increased social connections.
- A 100% increase in the number of streamed educational products and tutorials provided for RCYF youth and parents
- A 100% increase in the number of RCYF youth produced programs distributed online to support RCYF's goals for Dove Springs
- The development of an Action Plan to further expand the technology and access to underserved families in Dove Springs

Evaluation Methods:

Pre/Post tests are used to measure gains in digital and social media skills, along with instructor observations, student products, and success stories. Workshop summaries provide class information including attendance and duration. The success of a Dove Springs Technology Summit will further guide technology action plans in the community.

Please include location if applying for more than one location (include priority rank if submitting for more than one location:

Community

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.

Google Fiber will help River City Youth Foundation to increase the volume, variety, and velocity of connected learning experiences and opportunities for those who are most underserved in Dove Springs. It will enable RCYF to utilize its technology center to greater capacity and to help shape the future of Dove Springs toward what Imagine Austin (the city's 30 year plan) calls a "complete community".

The plan states: These communities will be for Austinites of all ages. They will provide environments that support children at every stage of their development, young adults beginning their professional lives and families, and seniors aging gracefully in the neighborhoods where they raised their families.

We will grow our year-round daytime, evening, and weekend technology classes for children and parents, our social media outreach, and we will expand special technology training activities like our TechComunidad which trains an average of 100 parents and 300 youth in a one day digital technology fair at RCYF several times a year. An onsite fiber connection will make it possible to increase the number of people who can receive technology training simultaneously without

connectivity breaks.

To continue to support community development, we will help alleviate the critical shortage of public spaces available after hours and weekends in Dove Springs by hosting at RCYF community meetings by neighborhood organizations that address issues including economic, health, education, and affordable housing concerns. With Google Fiber we will be positioned to expand our technology offerings to include high quality teleconferencing and onsite technology for research, communications, leadership training, and related multi-media production.

In 2-3 years, we will grow our existing RCYF community center facility from 3,000 to 12,000 square feet of indoor classroom, leadership training, nutrition classes and meals, technology and multi-media classrooms, and community meeting space using 87500 square feet of indoor/outdoor robust technology.

2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.

Through our WIN (Wired & Inspired Neighborhood) RCYF promotes digital inclusion through a combination of community based professional and grassroots outreach strategies that provide clear messages virtually and in person to people in Dove Springs about technology services for low income youth and families in Dove Springs.

The most important way to promote digital inclusion in a high need community is to create customers who are so positively impacted by our program that they themselves are the best ones to market the product. We do this by :

- Providing year-round onsite free bilingual technology classes for youth and parents in a safe, family friendly, culturally relevant, and accessible community center that is within walking distance of most of our families in Dove Springs'
- Ensuring wrap around services including counseling, case management, mentoring, and nutritious meals and snacks that foster healthy life styles and vigorous learning;
- Being cognizant of and sensitive to the availability of Dove Springs parents who are the most underserved and by holding multiple low wage jobs are often the most overworked; for example, for parents receiving technology training, we conduct special technology events like TechComunidad on weekends and regular classes in the mornings for mothers with school age children, allowing them time to walk to school to pick them up, and by providing child care for those who would otherwise miss the technology training opportunity;
- Remaining attentive to the unique developmental needs of children and youth, we conduct classes for elementary age children immediately after school and for teens early evenings and weekends; and when schools are closed including spring break, summer, and winter holidays-

RCYF is the safe technology center that our youth can count on.

- Staying acutely alert to the high risk factors of area crime and street safety issues, RCYF has acquired vans to safely transport youth with parental permission from school to our Success Center;
- Empowering low income families with technology training as well as a technology device that they can earn through full participation and graduation in RCYF's TechComunidad.
- Collaborating with all existing organizations serving Dove Springs and attracting those outside of the area through presentations, emails, and high quality tech conferencing;
- Creating Internet based content with culturally relevant messages, to get the word out about the digital inclusion opportunities at and through RCYF.
- Training graduates of our bilingual technology programs to effectively reach out to other underserved youth and families, whether their relatives or friends, and to *pass it forward*.

3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.

Yes! A River City Youth Foundation-Google partnership has the potential to impact one of the largest populated zip codes in Austin and one of the fastest-growing communities in Texas. Making educational strides in an area that has one of the largest youth populations is also inevitably going to benefit greater Austin.

By partnering with RCYF in this project, Google is positioned to accomplish something for Dove Springs that has never been done. Together we will move a community in virtual isolation from the rest of the city to a world of connectivity unlike ever seen. We plan to harness the strength of a symmetric gigabit Internet connection over Google Fiber's network to create seismic behavior change among families, youth, residents, and students living in Dove Springs.

RCYF is addressing the need for community-wide technology programs offered in Dove Springs. We have launched a full scale technology approach that provides community technology access and 21st Century skills training to an area that is grossly underserved. It calls for equipping hundreds of families with the resources and knowledge to become shining stars in their own community.

It has been quoted recently in public forums and reports that it is "too hard" to mobilize in Dove Springs. We know that by leveraging corporate support like Dell technology, GTOPS support for technology instruction, and Google Fiber's fast Internet speed, we can transform a hurting area and mobilize a force for good. As part of the Google Fiber Community Connections Program, we can build a skilled workforce and guide hundreds of families out of poverty. The result is

thousands of youth and parents with brilliant minds, millions of dollars of economic impact, and increased connected learning experiences and opportunities for those who are most underserved in Dove Springs.

4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?

Looking at the big picture, it's expected that over time 100% of the Dove Springs community will benefit from the Google fiber connection in some way, either as direct recipients of gigabit connectivity and/or indirectly through the social, economic, educational, health, and quality of life improvements that we expect will be made by thousands of youth and families who will have been empowered, illuminated, inspired, and wired for the good of the whole community through their participation in onsite and virtual programs, and through social media-all of which will have been improved by a gigabit connection.

Through the use of technology in a robustly connected learning environment at RCYF, thousands of youth and parents will benefit. Youth will better prepare for college and careers. Parents will better guide their children through an educational system that without guidance and tools has simply eluded them. More empowered, they will share the information with friends and family which will inspire them to participate in technology training that will transform their lives, too.

Within a community of underserved low income residents who often rely on each other to survive, what starts as a ripple can over time turn into a tsunami of inspiration and action-a movement that could help position Dove Springs as a "complete community" that Imagine Austin aspires to.

5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.

RCYF will provide a new technology-based language program for parents and youth who are struggling to learn English and simply cannot afford to attend formal classes or have not been able to penetrate the waiting lists at the churches and nonprofits. Dove Springs has the fastest growing Latino youth population in Austin so the number of people needing this service is expected to be high and will definitely require a gigabit connection to provide optimal learning.

Innovation

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.

With Google Fiber at River City Youth Foundation (RCYF), this youth center's capabilities grow from bandwidth to mind-width.

With gigabyte power, RCYF will achieve new heights of learning and service for youth and

parents in the Dove Springs community. We will be able to introduce these education empowerment programs.

- Power 50 computer stations simultaneously streaming RCYF produced online tutorials on YouTube. Tutorials for student sessions include writing workshops, Lego building, video game design, and video production. Tutorials for parent sessions include computer based instruction, English classes, college and career preparation, and health/fitness classes. With an online tutorial based approach, RCYF can reach more students on-demand.
 - Current capacity: 5 computer stations
 - Google Fiber: 50
- Stream 8 RCYF youth produced TV shows simultaneously on Google Hangout covering topics such as anti-bullying, mastering tests, college readiness, health/fitness, and community building. Streaming multiple shows at one time allows for more student programming to be aired in limited time periods.
 - Current capacity: 2 computer stations
 - Google Fiber: 8+
- For RCYF's parent training series, TechComunidad, engage 100 parents at a time on computers integrating the Internet and email into curriculum that teaches life-changing computer skills to low-literate, English limited parents.
 - Current capacity: 30 computer stations
 - Google Fiber: 100
- Increase the number of live virtual youth career mentoring sessions by more than 1,000%. With Google Fiber, RCYF can organize more virtual mentoring sessions pairing K-12 students with a host of career mentors that include everyone from programmers and engineers to nutritionists and futurists
 - Current capacity: 3 computer stations
 - Google Fiber: 30
- Launch a new Dove Springs Gaming Club serving 200 RCYF students annually that has as its flagship a community wide southeast Austin event to inspire youth to pursue computer based careers and to build their logic and problem solving skills.
- To scale the intergenerational and deeply rooted poverty and educational issues that have stunted the growth of thousands of minority children and families served by RCYF, we've committed to partnering with technology leaders from industry, academia, city/region/colleges and community to seek razor edge applications that will help this 30 year old award winning nonprofit agency to help our underserved families acquire the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

- RCYF serves a high number of Spanish speaking Latino families and children who represent enrollments with as high as 95% Latino rates in many of our neighborhood schools. We are exploring the expansion of a long-standing partnership with the University of Texas to develop a bilingual application that would help our families to more quickly and effectively access cultural, educational, legal, economic, and health information using the Internet at RCYF.
 - RCYF will launch a *Dove Springs Technology Summit in late 2014 or 2015*. The focus of this group is how best to advance novel and useful technological applications and services requiring high bandwidth, collaboration, and communication to improve the quality of life of youth and families in Dove Springs. Topics will include health and wellbeing, transportation, education, immigrant issues, jobs, college and career, housing, and environmental concerns.
2. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?
 - RCYF does not currently have high bandwidth applications but is exploring the development of a bilingual application for Spanish speaking families to overcome the barriers they face accessing life transforming information; a gigabit connection is needed to explore, develop, and implement this type of application.
 3. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.

RCYF is interested in advancing our technology:

By enlarging RCYF's technology facility in the hub of Dove Springs:

- RCYF plans an expansion within the next 2-3 years to grow our facility from its current 3,000 square feet of indoor space to 12,000 square feet within a combined indoor/outdoor area of 87,500 square feet of robust connectivity on our two acre debt-free property in the hub of Dove Springs.
- An architectural rendering of the planned expansion is available from PageSoutherlandPage Architects. PSP helped build our current facility and has committed to continuing its pro-bono, professional services to RCYF for Phase 2 of the RCYF long-range building plan.
- The expanded facility plan, which provides for a tripling of technology and multi-media classrooms for year-round service to thousands of youth and families, will require a gigabit connection.

By scaling the educational issues of low income youth and families:

- RCYF will continue to grow its TechComunidad –a free bilingual digital technology fair organized in the heart of the Dove Springs community where tech access is minimal; this innovative approach is “Technology delivered to the doorsteps of a community”. TechComunidad at RCYF is the largest gathering of technology teachers and programs united on one day to improve the quality of life for Dove Springs. The fair attracts hundreds of low income families who leave with new technology skills in computer, social media, and the Internet, as well as the inspiration to continue mandatory classroom training which provides a tablet or laptop upon graduation. More training devices and workstations will require a gigabit connection.
- RCYF would like to develop a connected learning process that can empower our youth in Dove Springs who attend neighborhood schools by day and our after school year-round educational support programs late afternoons, weekends, and during school holidays- to access their school work remotely at our facility. This growing need was discussed at SXEDU earlier this year as an innovative way to help underserved low income youth to bridge the learning gaps that exist for families without technology or Internet at home. A gigabit connection would be essential to the exploration, development, and implementation of this type of innovative learning.

By scaling the health and mental health issues of low income families who distrust existing medical systems but have a high trust level for RCYF as a safe place and learning center:

- RCYF plans to partner with Austin Travis County Integral Care to help Dove Springs families who need bilingual mental health and wellness services. Our two organizations have worked together for years and in 2012 partnered to bring the first Dove Springs Integrated Care Facility that will open in November, just blocks from RCYF. A guiding principle for the development of this facility has been the “integration of technology for improved and expanded services” and a primary service to be provided will be *Telemedicine*. We are currently exploring ways to help facilitate help to families using technology at RCYF as well as empowering our parents with skills so they can navigate the system to access services that can help save lives and restore wellness.
- As the Affordable Care Act unfolds in the lives of Dove Springs families, newly acquired digital skills learned at RCYF with the power of a gigabit connection will help them determine what information they must use to make critical health decisions affecting their families.

4. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.

Yes, we have the capacity to advance our technologies. We will do this through a well-supported debt-free Success Center, a full range community technology and social services facility in Dove Springs that already serves thousands of underserved youth and families year-round and which is slated for expansion in the next 2-3 years. River City Youth Foundation owns and operates the Success Center. Built on donated land with a combination of federal and local funds from

government, corporations, and thousands of volunteers – our Success Center is dedicated in perpetuity to the service of children and families in Dove Springs.

RCYF is not the biggest organization by far but like the 400 year old Live Oak Tree in front of our tech lab, we have deep strong roots serving Austin's poorest and fastest growing community of predominantly young Latino families. Our proposed outcomes and impact require more than rigorous connectivity and technology. They require an abiding faithfulness to the mission, one that will not waiver with funding trends or break apart when challenges arise. Not only have we built a full service, debt-free youth and family technology center on donated land in the heart of Dove Springs but we have built trust among the people who most need our services as well as the community leaders with whom we work arm in arm, night and day to ensure that the least of our brothers has access to the best we can offer.

Years of effective collaboration with law enforcement, schools, churches, neighborhood groups, government, and corporations have created a million dollar youth and family learning center in the hub of Austin's poorest neighborhood. These enduring collaborations are vital to achieving the personal learning objectives of children today so they can become Texas' bilingual technology workforce tomorrow.

With multi-year financial support and over \$800,000 of audited in-kind resources at our side, engaged employees and shiny new technology - we are leading the charge to WIN--Wire and Inspire Dove Springs youth and parents so they can champion their own learning as they change their world for good!

From its founding nearly 30 years ago, River City Youth Foundation has been serving Dove Springs. RCYF has become a staple and a lifeline for young people, families, educators, churches, and community organizations in southeast Austin.

No other organization in the area has RCYF's level of experience, intuition, and success working with the low-income community of Dove Springs. Through the years, RCYF has navigated through best practices and served as a model for other groups studying community revitalization and development. One of the greatest accomplishments for RCYF is when a former student walks through the door as a grown adult and says, "I have positive memories here. Now I want to give back to my community."

Practical Pragmatic

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?

RCYF currently pays \$179 per month for internet access (12.0 MBps download & 1.5 MBps

upload). With the Google Fiber connection we would redirect these funds to support other vital technology program costs including increased instruction to serve more low income children and families year-round.

2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?

Primary.

3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?

Yes. The children in Dove Springs have had very few other outlets where they can be exposed to the latest in technology. Recent Dell funding has made it possible for us to upgrade our older technology platforms to those that are cutting edge. More lives have been enriched and Austin's poorest urban community now has wireless access on much of our 2.5 acre grounds by utilizing Dell business class wireless solutions. With Dell technology we've multiplied by 30 times our connectivity increasing from 3000 square feet of indoor connectivity to over 87000 square feet of indoor/outdoor robust connectivity throughout our parkland youth facility where the WIN program is thriving.

With recent grants from Dell, we're leveraging Optiplex desktops, Latitude notebooks, Dell Slate tablets, Dell Power Edge Server, Dell Power Connect switch and Dell PowerConnect W series wireless to advance our Dell solution. The Optiplexes and Latitudes replaced older technology and increased our capacity to serve families who lack technology at home. The Latitudes and Slates extend instruction space both inside and outside the building, giving us a virtual increase in the size of our center's reach. The PowerEdge replaced an older PowerEdge server and extended our capability to both serve our children and catalog our data. The PowerConnect switch replaced an older switch, increasing switch port capacity to support the newer equipment, and provides Power Over Ethernet capabilities. The PowerConnect Wireless equipment has extended our wireless reach throughout the building and in much of our adjacent parkland for the benefit of both our instructional capabilities and the people in our community. And state of the art multi-media technology is giving wings to our children's dreams through the use of digital recording equipment, Flash HD camcorders, and a wireless projector.

4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?

We currently use Grande Communications.

Applicant's Statement

I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information given in my application will result in disqualification. I understand and agree that I am required to abide by City of Austin ordinances, policies and rules.

I understand if selected to receive a Google Fiber connection that the organization I represent may be required to:

☒ submit an annual report to the TARA Office explaining how the organization has benefited from the free service.

Mona Gonzalez

Signature

9/30/13

Date

Executive Director

Title

Please submit this form to TARA by 4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013.

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov

Address: City of Austin – TARA - Municipal Building
124 W. 8th Street, Suite 210
Austin, Texas 78701